

## YUAN SAYS CHINA IS RACING TO RUIN

Calls on Foes of Monarchical Government to Show Loyalty to the Republic.

### TAKES "ALL THE BLAME"

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Yuan Shih-Kai's mandate announcing the abandonment of the scheme to resume the monarchical form of government in China, was made public by the Chinese embassy here to-day. The text follows: "Since the establishment of the republic, its disturbances followed one after another and I was called upon to shoulder the burden of the State. The welfare of the country is of great importance, declared that unless China adopted a constitutional monarchy she could never exist. Large numbers of the people then advocated the monarchial restoration. Prayers were addressed to me in the most earnest terms by telegrams and petitions. The action Li Fa Yuan [State council] decided that the form of the State should be settled by a convention of citizens' representatives. In consequence representatives of the provinces and local administrative areas were elected and a convention was held. These representatives of the convention unanimously decided on a monarchial government and elected me Emperor. Since the sovereignty of the country was vested in citizens and the decision made by the entire body of representatives, there was no room left to me for further discussion."

#### Irresistible Arguments.

"Nevertheless, I am convinced that my sudden elevation to the throne would constitute a violation of my oath, leaving the way open to exploitation. The Li Fa Yuan's arguments were firm and stated that the oath of the chief executive was based on his position and should be observed or discarded according to the will of the people. Their arguments were so irresistible that they had no excuse for me to decline their advice. Using representations as a pretext, I took no steps to carry out their programme actually."

"When the trouble in Yunnan and Kwelihow arose, I issued a mandate postponing the measure and forbidding the presentation of petitions praying the restoration of the empire. At the suggestion of the Li Fa Yuan in order to secure various views, hoping to revert to the original state of affairs. Being a man of bitter experiences, I cared for nothing but the salvation of the country and the welfare of the people, however, suspected me of harboring a desire for great power and privileges. Thus difference in thought has created an exceedingly dangerous situation."

"I have myself to blame for my lack of virtue. Who should I blame others? The people have been thrown into misery. The soldiers have been made to bear hardships. Confidence has been taken from me. I feel exceedingly sorry."

#### Cancel Acceptance of Throne.

"I am still of the opinion that the designation petitions submitted through the acting Li Fa Yuan are unsuited to the circumstances of the country. The official acceptance of the throne on December 12, 1915, is hereby cancelled and the designation petitions are hereby returned through the State Council to the Li Tien Cheng Yuen, acting as the Li Fa Yuan, to be forwarded to the petitioners for destruction. All preparations connected therewith are to cease forthwith."

"Thus I hope to imitate the example of the sinners of the ancients by shunning the blame, so that my action will fall on me and the spirit of humanity, which is the expression of the will of Heaven. Those who advocated the monarchy were prompted by the desire to strengthen the foundation of the country, but as their methods have proved unsatisfactory their patriotism might harm the country."

Those who opposed the monarchy have done so out of the desire to express their political views. It may be presumed that they would not hesitate to go to the extreme, thereby endangering the country. They should therefore listen to their conscience and give up their practices, which should unite in the effort of saving the situation so that we may be spared the horror of internal strife."

"In brief, all the faults of the country are mine. Now that the acceptance of the throne has been cancelled every man should be further distanced from causes for protests. In the President, being charged with the duty of ruling the country, cannot remain idle while the country is racing to perdition. Let all our generals, officials, soldiers and officers do their best."

A mandate issued on March 21 relieved Lu Ching-hsing, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the additional post of Secretary of State on account of his multitudinous duties. Hu Shih-chang was appointed Secretary of State.

The mandate issued the same date recalled the resigning title of Hung-chien. A mandate issued March 23 reinstated the title of the republic.

#### FROST CUTS CITY'S SUPPLIES.

**Green Groceries Scarce Because of Lingering Winter.**

Frosts have nipped green things to an unusual degree in the Southland and New York's supply of kale, spinach, lettuce and other vegetables has been greatly curtailed during the past week or ten days. Prices are high in consequence. It is believed by commission men that conditions will not be normal for at least two weeks.

The effects of the overexposure of winter made themselves manifest in shipments of kale and spinach from Norfolk. Shipments fell off. Spinach, which cost \$2 to \$2.50 a barrel whole, a few days ago, is now worth \$3 to \$5 a barrel.

The frost has extended down into Florida, and much damage was done to various vegetables, including beans and peas.

Strawberries, which the retailer says he has two weeks ago to buy at 20 and 25 cents a quart, have been advanced to 50 and 55 cents a quart whole sale.

#### STATEN ISLAND NOTES.

Plans are under way to organize a regiment of Scotch Highland School Cadets. Lt.-Col. John H. Ross has offered the equipment necessary.

Lack of an apprenticeship, it was said, was the chief reason for the departure of a half dozen men from the borough engineering department.

A decision has been reached by the commissioners in regard to the charges against the Rev. Robert H. Kline, rector of St. Andrews Church. The fourth hearing will be held today.

Rev. Whitman has given consent to the civil action against the International Steel Company, Bengough, Penn., Chemical Company, and others, of which Dr. Peter A. Peck, attorney for the defendants, is a member of the bar.

Francis E. Lehman, president of the West New Brighton Board of Trade and Commerce, has filed a suit for damages that has been turned to fight the establishment of the city's garbage destructor here. Mayors assume him to be wrong and "perpetrate an injustice on Richmond Borough."

## PRENDERGAST LACKING IN TRUTH, BROWNE ASSERTS

**Mayor Forces Real Estate Association Head to Apologize for Remarks Made Against Comptroller at Court House Hearing.**

The Board of Estimate took no action yesterday on the report of the Court House Board proposing changes in the original plans for the County Court House, by which the immediate cost of that structure will be reduced by \$2,500,000. Spirited opposition to building at this time was expressed in behalf of numerous real estate and taxpayers' organizations, who contended that prevailing prices for material would make it impossible to complete the work within the estimate.

Comptroller Prendergast raised the question as to the good faith of some of the changes. He declared that the board was not convinced that by merely deferring the installation of certain features of the new structure the ultimate cost had been reduced. It appeared from the discussion that \$1,000,000 would not be a liberal estimate of what it would cost to install certain features not provided for in the revised plans but which are essential to a complete building.

The board decided to take further time for discussion of the changes in executive session.

Stewart Browne, president of the United Real Estate Owners Association, who never misses a meeting of the Board of Estimate if he is able to be on his feet, was not allowed to address the board yesterday until he had apologized to Comptroller Prendergast for a remark made in heat during the course of the discussion.

**Browne and Prendergast Clash.**

Several times Mr. Prendergast either addressed or referred to Mr. Browne in a way that was evidently getting under his skin. Finally the Comptroller intimated that the remarks of Mr. Browne were getting away from the point at issue and the real estate man said he would stop, however, even though he was fully justified in doing so.

Comptroller Prendergast suggested that to defer putting certain necessities into the building meant only placing a burden on some future administration.

Judge O'Brien declared that if the project were abandoned now the loss to the city would be equal to the proposed cost of the new building.

Mr. Browne retorted that there was no additional remark that there was no honor on the side of Mr. Browne.

"Possibly not," retorted Mr. Browne, "but I have truth, which you have not."

"Mr. Mayor," said the Comptroller, "I do not think that any man has the right to come before this board and impugn the integrity of any member of it. If he does not apologize, I shall insist that he be not allowed to speak again."

Mr. Browne started to say something more, but Mayor Mitchel stopped him with the remark that if he spoke again his activities before the board would be ended. Later, when the discussion of the Court House project had ended, Mr. Browne again sought to address the board, but the Mayor stopped him with the remark that he would not permit him to proceed unless he stood ready to apologize.

There was applause from the crowded room as Mr. Browne sat down. He said that he had no objection to the introduction of the discussion and would then make up his mind as to whether or not he owed an apology. He said that he had no intention of impugning the motives of the Comptroller and was not just as what it was that Mr. Prendergast objected to.

The discussion of the Court House project lasted for about an hour and a half. There were present the members

## MISS WILSON DEFENDS LABOR FORUM PICTURE

**Will Talk Here To-morrow on "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" Barred in School.**

The picture, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?", painted by J. C. Dolman, which was placed on the walls of the Washington Irving High School by the Labor Forum, causing Principal Edward C. Zabriskie to order it removed on the ground that it was unfit for the eyes of school children, has prompted Miss Margaret Woodrow Wilson, daughter of the President, to rally to its defense. Miss Wilson will attend a meeting of the Forum to-morrow evening in the Washington Irving Building to discuss the picture and Principal Zabriskie's action. Meanwhile, she has sent a letter to the Forum, saying in part:

"It is with amazement that I heard that Mr. Dolman's wonderful picture, 'Am I My Brother's Keeper?' was considered by the authorities to be unfit for a school building."

"Surely one of the most necessary and vital purposes of education is to give a sense of the realities around us and to prepare us to grapple with the problems which these realities present. This school want to send the children away from school without any sense of responsibility toward their fellow men? Do they think that ignorance of life is a good preparation for life, or indifference to the needs of others? I do not think so."

"Even though we desire to keep children ignorant of the dark things of life, it is impossible to do so, especially where these things lie at the doors of teachers. Surely it is the duty of teachers to teach the children to understand life around them with understanding, sympathy and a sense of responsibility."

"I am glad that the people of the Washington Irving High School Forum realize that part of the responsibility for the education of the children of their community is theirs."

### PROTEST ON LABOR FORUM.

**Reality Owners Ask Outing of Body From School Building.**

A vigorous protest against the use of the Washington Irving High School for meetings of the Labor Forum was made at a meeting of the committee on care of buildings of the Board of Education yesterday. A resolution was passed by the committee that the forum be abandoned now to the city.

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## USERS OF DYE WILL FIGHT FOR TARIFF

**Three Committees Named to Act With Manufacturers and Consumers.**

### SECRET MEETING ENDED

Representatives of thirty industries manufacturing or consuming dyes had a two days secret conference at the Merchants' Association yesterday with the intention that they are to fight to a high tariff on imported dyes in order to protect the American industry.

Companies as textile mills to finishing works as well as to customers, but also in firms where the average shipment is less bulky, as for instance, in garment goods. Owing to the difficulty of marketing goods, particularly finished products, being noisy and where the distance is too great to frequent use is made of the express.

"Mills producing piece goods of all kinds, knit goods, &c., are making every effort to increase their output, however, to combat importation, however, mainly because of the scarcity of dyes, but also on account of inability to obtain a greater number of operatives.

Mill workers are fully cognizant of this latter condition and are making shorter hours for shorter hours and for higher wages.

"Thus the conditions as regards supply and demand may be summed up in the statement that distributors are buying delivery."

### SCARCITY IN DRY GOODS TRADE

**Business Feels Effect of Greater Freight Congestion.**

The *Dry Goods Economist* says: "The principal developments of the week have been the accentuating of the freight congestion and the scarcity of merchandise. Complaints as to freight delays are made not only by importers of heavy shipments such as textiles from mills to finishing works as well as to customers, but also in firms where the average shipment is less bulky, as for instance, in garment goods. Owing to the difficulty of marketing goods, particularly finished products, being noisy and where the distance is too great to frequent use is made of the express."

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